

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/505,674

Examiner

Thu Ha T. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

NEWMAN ET AL.

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to response filed 08/08/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,4,6-11,13,16 and 18-24.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 09/15/05.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

SALEH NAJJAR
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicants' Representative, Mr. Farzad E. Amini (Reg. No. 42,261), on September 10, 2005.

3. The application has been amended as follow:

In the claims:

4. Claims 2-3, 5, 12, 14-15, and 17 are cancelled without prejudice.

5. Claims 1, 10, 13, and 20-24 are amended as following:

6. Claim 1, amended as following:

1. (Currently amended) A method for synchronizing e-mail messages for a user, comprising:

(A) receiving, at an e-mail control at a local server, a plurality of e-mail messages addressed to the user, from an external e-mail server;

(B) storing, by the e-mail control, each e-mail message of the plurality of e-mail messages, in a consolidated e-mail storage at the local server that reflects the a last updated combined e-mail for the user;

(C) storing, by the e-mail control, a message identifier for each e-mail message, in a message identifier storage at the local server; and

(D) determining whether an e-mail message in the consolidated e-mail storage has been deleted from the external e-mail server by comparing message identifiers in the message identifier storage to message identifiers in e-mail received from the external e-mail server, and if so, then deleting the e-mail message from the consolidated e-mail storage of the local server [[.]] ;

performing (A), (B), (C), and (D) for at least one next external e-mail server; and responsive to a user command, providing e-mail messages from the consolidated e-mail storage, to the user.

7. Claim 10 after the word "that reflects", delete "the" and insert --a--

8. Claim 13, amended as following:

13. (Currently amended) A system for synchronizing e-mail messages for a user, comprising:

(A) an e-mail control at a local server, for receiving a plurality of e-mail messages addressed to the user, from ~~an external e-mail server~~ a plurality of external e-mail servers;

(B) consolidated e-mail storage at the local server, accessed by the e-mail control, having each e-mail message of the plurality of e-mail messages and that reflects the a last updated combined e-mail for the user;

(C) message identifier storage at the local server, accessed by the e-mail control, having a message identifier for each external e-mail message; and

(D) the consolidated e-mail storage having at least two states, including a first state having at least one e-mail message which has been deleted from ~~the external e-mail server~~ one of the external e-mail servers; and a second state having no e-mail message which has been deleted from said one of the external e-mail server servers wherein one of the two states is determined on a basis of compared message identifiers in the message identifier storage to message identifiers in e-mail received from an external e-mail server, and wherein the system includes a user command for providing e-mail message from the consolidated e-mail storage, to the user.

9. Claim 20, amended as following:

20. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 13, wherein ~~the state~~ one of the two states is determined on the basis of compared message identifiers of e-mail on the external e-mail server to message identifiers in the message identifier storage.

10. Claim 21, amended as following:

21. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 13, wherein ~~the state~~ one of the two states is determined on the basis of compared message identifiers of e-mail on the external e-mail server to message identifiers of e-mail in the consolidated e-mail storage.

11. Claim 22, amended as following:

22. (Currently Amended) A system for synchronizing e-mail messages for a user, comprising:

(A) an e-mail control at a local server, for receiving a plurality of e-mail messages addressed to the user, from an external e-mail server;

(B) consolidated e-mail storage at the local server, accessed by the e-mail control, having each e-mail message of the plurality of e-mail messages and that reflects ~~the~~ a last updated, combined e-mail for the user;

(C) message identifier storage at the local server, accessed by the e-mail control, to store a message identifier for each external e-mail message;

(D) the consolidated e-mail storage having at least two states, including a first state having at least one e-mail message which has been deleted from the external e-mail server; and a second state having no e-mail message which has been deleted from the external e-mail server;

(E) wherein there are provided a plurality of external e-mail servers having e-mail messages for the user;

(F) a user command for providing e-mail messages from the consolidated e-mail storage, to the user;

(G) wherein the consolidated e-mail storage includes storage for e-mail associated with other users; and

(H) wherein ~~the state~~ one of the two states is determined on the basis of

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compared message identifiers in the message identifier storage to message identifiers in e-mail received from the external e-mail server.

12. Claim 23, amended as following:

23. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 22, wherein ~~the state~~ one of the two states is determined on the basis of compared message identifiers of e-mail on the external e-mail server to message identifiers in the message identifier storage.

13. Claim 24, amended as following:

24. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 22, wherein ~~the state~~ one of the two states is determined on the basis of compared message identifiers in the message identifier storage to message identifiers of e-mail in the consolidated e-mail storage.

Drawings

14. New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because some drawings are informal, illegible, poor quality for publication. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Reasons for Allowance

15. Claims 1, 4, 6--13, 16, and 18-24 are allowed.

16. Claims 2-3, 5, 12, 14-15, and 17 are cancelled.

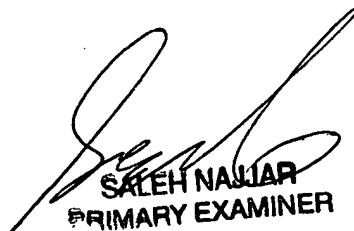
The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior arts of record teaches and discloses a system and method for synchronizing electronic message between a client site and a central site. However, the invention has some particular combination limitations that are different and distinct from prior arts (see applicant's remarks filed on August 08, 2005 which points out the reason claims are distinguishable and patentable over the prior art of record). Among the differences between claimed invention and the prior art of record, the major difference is the combination of a method and system for receiving plurality of e-mail messages from plurality of external e-mail servers, at an e-mail control at a local server; storing the plurality of e-mail messages in a consolidated e-mail storage at the local server that reflects a last updated, combined e-mail for the user; storing a message identifier for each e-mail message in a message identifier storage at the local server; determining whether an e-mail message in the consolidated e-mail storage has been deleted from the external e-mail server by comparing message identifiers in the message identifier storage to message identifiers in e-mail received from the external e-mail server, if so, then deleting the e-mail message from the consolidated e-mail storage; performing those step above for at least one next external e-mail server and responsive to a user command, providing e-mail message form the consolidated e-mail storage, to the user are novel, thus the invention is patentable.

17. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

18. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thu Ha Nguyen, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3989. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

19. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar, can be reached at (571) 272-4006.

20. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



SALEH NAJJAR
PRIMARY EXAMINER

ThuHa Nguyen

September 15, 2005